

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

INTRODUCED BY R. LAIBLE

BY REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EXAMINE OPTIONS FOR IMPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, section 12, of the Montana Constitution vests the Legislature with the responsibility to ensure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state, counties, cities, and all other local governmental entities; and

~~WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2007 Montana's public school system spent \$139.7 million on the general and building administration of 421 school districts, which represents 10.4% of the money spent by school districts; and~~

WHEREAS, a study of potential administrative efficiencies does not infringe upon the constitutional rights of the Board of Public Education or local school boards; and

WHEREAS, administrative efficiencies save money that may be used to enhance the educational system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

(1) examine ~~possible~~ COST-BENEFIT options ~~for further consolidation of~~ AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING administrative functions and services in the public school system;

(2) explore ~~possible~~ COST-BENEFIT options ~~for further consolidation of~~ AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING educational jurisdictions in the public school system;

(3) study administrative and managerial best practices in the public school system of Montana and other states; and

(4) assess the guidelines and structures for reporting, and the process for validating, data on administrative costs in the public school system.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider approaches to administrative efficiency that are:
2 (1) phased in over multiple years and are least disruptive to personnel;
3 (2) a pragmatic mix of statutory or regulatory requirements and positive financial and market incentives;
4 (3) particularly attentive to districts within the public school system that face challenges of geographical
5 distance and declining enrollment;
6 (4) sensitive to the effects that changes in administration could have on Native American students and
7 their efforts to close the academic achievement gap; and
8 (5) discussed in the Montana K-12 Public School Renewal Commission's 2004 report.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
10 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
12 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2010.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
14 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 62nd Legislature.

15 - END -